

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSC-01 PM-09 SS-14 NSC-10 RSR-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 IO-12 /101 W

----- 071207

R 161145 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4811

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL MUNICH

EUCOM

USAREUR

USNATO 0776

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 0943

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MILI RO

SUBJ: NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR NAMED

1. CENTRAL PRESS MARCH 16 ANNOUNCED COUNCIL OF STATE DECREE RELIEVING INTERIOR MINISTER (AND SECURITY CHIEF) ION STANESCU AND REPLACING HIM WITH FORMER SUCEAVA DISTRICT PARTY CHIEF, EMIL BOBU. ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT, STANESCU, WHO IS CONSIDERED CLOSE CEAUSESCU CONFIDANT, WILL RECEIVE " OTHER DUTIES."

2. BOBU, WHO HAD BEEN SUCEAVA DISTRICT LEADER AT LEAST FROM 1959 UNTIL HE WAS REPLACED BY MIU DOBRESCU DURING LAST DECEMBER' S SHIFT OF DISTRICT PARTY SECRETARIES, WAS IDENTIFIED IN LATEST AGERPRES PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LIST AS A CC COUNSELOR TO SECRETARY- GENERAL CEAUSESCU. AS MEMBER OF CC SINCE 1960, BOBU IS IN HIS LATE FIFTIES, AND IT APPEARED HE HAD MADE A CAREER AS PARTY LEADER OF HIS NATIVE SUCEAVA DISTRICT GIVING IMPRESSION TO CALLERS THAT HE HAD NO WIDER AMBITIONS AND EXPECTED EVENTUAL RETIREMENT FROM SUCEAVA POST. HE HAD IMPRESSED AMBASSADOR AS MODERATE, OPEN- MINDED AND INTELLIGENT

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MAN OF CONSIDERABLE WIT AND SOCIAL EASE. BOBU' S APPOINTMENT COMES AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE; HIS CAREER PATTERN AND CHARACTER WOULD HAVE APPEARED TO MAKE HIM ONE OF LEAST LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR INTERIOR MINISTER POSITION.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE AWARE OF NO DISSATISFACTION WITH STANESCU' S PERFORMANCE (ALTHOUGH BUCHAREST 0368 REPORTED CEAUSESCU JAN. 27 REFERENCE TO " SOME PROBLEMS" INVOLVING DEFENSE AND INTERIOR MINISTRIES AS WELL AS ODD EMPHASIS ON NEED OF SECURITY ORGANS TO STAY WITHIN THE LAW), AND STANESCU-- WHO IS EVEN RUMORED TO BE BROTHER- IN- LAW OF CEAUSESCU-- APPEARED TO BE IN SECURE POSITION. CHANGE IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT ONE BUT ITS SIGNIFICANCE WILL REMAIN UNCLEAR UNTIL STANESCU' S NEW ASSIGNMENT IS IDENTIFIED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE IS BEING FREED FOR ANOTHER POSITION OF EQUAL OR GREATER RESPONSIBILITY.
MEEKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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EUR
MUNICH
SECSTATE WASHDC
USAREUR
USNATO

Type: TE

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